A CHRONOLOGY OF UNION STEPS

Informal Steps

1937 Informal conversations in St. Louis, involving among others Samuel Press of Eden Seminary (Evangelical and Reformed) and Truman Douglass of Pilgrim Congregational Church.

1938 Telegram from Samuel Press to Dr. Douglass at the sessions of the 1938 General Council of Congregational Christian Churches.

1940-41 Correspondence between George W. Richards and Douglas Horton.

Formal Steps

1941 Authorization by the General Council (E&R) for conversations between the Committee on Closer Relations with Other Churches and the Congregational Christian Commission on Interchurch Relations and Christian Unity.

1942 Endorsements for union negotiations given by General Council (E&R) and steps toward preparation of a Basis of Union.

1943-47 Preparation of eight drafts of the Basis of Union.

1947 General Synod (E&R) approved the Basis of Union and sent it to the synods for ratification. The General Council (CC) sent it to the conferences and associations for study and transmission to the local churches.

1948 General Council (CC) at Oberlin added a set of *Interpretations* to the Basis of Union, thus making it necessary for the General Synod (E&R) to vote again and once more secure approval from the synods.

1949 General Council (CC) met in February to vote on the *Basis of Union with Interpretations*, which had been ratified by 72.8 percent of churches voting.

General Synod (E&R) approved and sent the *Basis of Union with Interpretations* to the synods for ratification. Approval was given in May.

A lawsuit was filed in Brooklyn, New York by the Cadman Memorial Church and the Cadman Memorial Congregational Society to test the right of the General Council to unite the churches.

1950 The union was enjoined in January by court order.
The General Council (CC) appealed the injunction.

1952 The 1950 New York injunction was reversed by the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court.

The General Council (CC) at Claremont, California voted to continue union negotiations.

1953 The New York Court of Appeals removed the last legal barrier to union.

1954 Joint meetings of the General Council (E&R) and the Executive Committee (CC) began the work of consummating the union.

1957 Uniting General Synod was held in Cleveland, Ohio, and the union achieved on June 25.